

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Aboul-Hosn et al.
Serial No.: Unknown
Filed: 26 January 2004
For: Apparatus and Methods for Entering Cavities of the Body

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITHIN
THREE MONTHS OF FILING OR BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION
(37 CFR 1.97(b))**

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed: (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application; (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in S 1.491 in an international application; or (3) before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last." 37 CFR 1.97(b).

NOTE: The "filing date of a national application" under 37 CFR 1.97(b) has two possible meanings. Where the filing is a direct one to the United States Patent & Trademark Office, the filing is defined in 37 CFR 1.53(b) as "the date on which: (1) A specification containing a description pursuant to S 1.71 and at least one claim pursuant to S 1.75; and (2) any drawing required by S 1.81(a), are filed in the Patent and Trademark Office in the name of the actual inventor or inventors as required by S 1.41." 37 CFR 1.97(b)(1). On the other hand, an international application that enters the national stage occurs when the applicant has filed the documents and fees required by 35 U.S.C. S 371(c) within the periods set forth in S 1.494 or S 1.495. 35 U.S.C. S 371(c) requires the filing of the following: (1) the national fee; (2) a copy of the international application, unless already sent by the International Bureau, and an English translation if filed in another language; (3) amendments under PCT Article 19, with a translation into English if made in another language; (4) an oath or declaration; and (5) a translation into English of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report, if such annexes were made in another language. 37 CFR 1.97(b)(2).

**IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF THE FILING DATE OF THE APPLICATION OR DATE OF ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL STAGE OF AN INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION OR BEFORE THE MAILING DATE OF A FIRST OFFICE ACTION ON THE MERITS, WHICHEVER EVENT OCCURS LAST. 37 CFR 1.97(b).

NOTE "NO CERTIFICATION OR FEE IS DUE WHEN THE FILING IS MADE WITHIN THE ABOVE TIME PERIOD. IT IS ADVISABLE TO ENSURE THAT NO OFFICE ACTION HAS BEEN MAILED IF THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THREE MONTHS FROM FILING.

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement will be considered to have been filed on the day it was received in the Office, or on an earlier date of a mailing if accompanied by a properly executed certificate of mailing under 37 CFR 1.8, or Express Mail certificate under 37 CFR 1.10. An Office action is mailed on the date indicated in the Office action." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

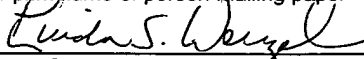
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a)) or (37 CFR 1.10)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United State Postal Service on the date shown below as Express Mail Label No. EV 317560183 in an envelope addressed as follows: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Linda S. Wenzel

Type or print name of person mailing paper

Date: 26 January 2004


(Signature of person mailing paper)

- NOTE: "The term 'national application' includes continuing applications (continuations, divisions, continuations-in-part) so three-months will be measured from the actual filing date of an application as opposed [sic] to the effective date of a continuing application." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).
- NOTE: "An action on the merits means an action which treats the patentability of the claims in an application, as opposed to only formal or procedural requirements. An action on the merits would, for example, contain a rejection or indication of allowability of a claim or claims rather than just a restriction requirements (37 CFR 1.142) or just a requirement for additional fees to have a claim considered (37 CFR 1.16(d)). Thus, if an application was filed on Jan. 1 and the first Office action on the merits was not mailed until six months later on July 1, the examiner would be required to consider any proper information disclosure statement filed prior to July 1." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).
- WARNING: "A PETITION FOR SUSPENSION OF ACTION TO ALLOW APPLICANT TIME TO SUBMIT AN INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WILL BE DENIED AS FAILING TO PRESENT GOOD AND SUFFICIENT REASONS, SINCE 37 CFR 1.97 PROVIDES ADEQUATE RECOURSE FOR THE TIMELY SUBMISSION OF PRIOR ART FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EXAMINER." NOTICE OF JULY 6, 1992 (1141 O.G. 63).

The submission of any document herewith is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima face* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

COPIES OF THE DOCUMENTS LISTED ON THE ATTACHED FORM PTO-1449 CAN BE FOUND IN THE FILE WRAPPER OF PARENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 09/720,016 FILED 16 APRIL 2001, AND ARE THEREFORE NOT INCLUDED WITH THIS SUBMISSION.

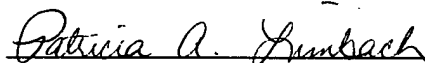
Should any fees be necessary in connection with this submission, please charge same to Account No. 06-2360.

Date 26 January 2004

Reg. No. 50,295

Telephone No.: (262) 783-1300

Customer No. 26308



Signature of Attorney of Record

Patricia A. Limbach

Type or Print Name of Attorney of Record

RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C.

Post Office Box 26618

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226-0618

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	ATTY DOCKET NO. 9261.16586-CIP PCT US DIV	SERIAL NO. Unknown
	APPLICANT Aboul-Hosn et al.	
	FILING DATE 26 January 2004	GROUP Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (if Appropriate)
	4,955,856	11 Sep 90	Phillips			
	5,741,234	21 Apr 98	Aboul-Hosn			
	6,083,260	04 Jul 00	Aboul-Hosn			
	6,086,570	11 Jul 00	Aboul-Hosn			
	6,113,536	05 Sep 00	Aboul-Hosn et al.			
	6,123,725	26 Sep 00	Aboul-Hosn			
	6,152,704	28 Nov 00	Aboul-Hosn et al.			
	6,210,133	03 Apr 01	Aboul-Hosn et al.			
	6,210,397	03 Apr 01	Aboul-Hosn et al.			
	6,228,063	08 May 01	Aboul-Hosn			
	6,234,960	22 May 01	Aboul-Hosn et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
		WO 99/02204	21 Jan 99	PCT			
		WO 99/59652	25 Nov 99	PCT			

OTHER PRIOR ART *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this of with next communication to applicant.

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	ATTY DOCKET NO. 9261.16586-CIP PCT US DIV	SERIAL NO. Unknown
	APPLICANT Aboul-Hosn et al.	
	FILING DATE 26 January 2004	GROUP Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If Appropriate)
	6,287,319	11 Sep 01	Aboul-Hosn et al.			
	6,295,877	02 Oct 01	Aboul-Hosn et al.			
	6,395,026	28 May 02	Aboul-Hosn et al.			
	4,682,978	07/28/1987	Martin			
	5,630,823	05/20/1997	Schmitz-Rode et al.			
	4,129,129	12/1978	Amrine			
	5,147,388	09/1992	Yamazaki			
	5,976,103	11/1999	Martin			
	5,980,503	11/1999	Chin			
	6,186,981	02/2001	Cho			
	4,362,163	12/1982	Krick			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No

OTHER PRIOR ART *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this of with next communication to applicant.

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	ATTY DOCKET NO. 9261.16586-CIP PCT US DIV	SERIAL NO. Unknown
	APPLICANT Aboul-Hosn et al.	
	FILING DATE 26 January 2004	GROUP Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If Appropriate)
	4,508,535	04/1985	Joh et al.			
	5,702,412	12/1997	Popov et al.			
	5,771,888	06/1998	Keim			
	5,817,057	10/1998	Berenstein et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No

OTHER PRIOR ART *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this of with next communication to applicant.